MARVEL
026
AARON
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STAR WARS

Book VI, Part I

YODA'S SECRET WAR

It is a time of renewed hope for the Rebel Alliance. but the Galactic Empire continues to hold its domination and has doubled its efforts to eliminate any who would stand against its rule.

The Alliance's heroes, pilot Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and smuggler-turned-soldier Han Solo, have just succeeded in stealing a massive Star Destroyer to deliver supplies to an ally planet.

However, their success does not come without cost — Darth Vader enlists a group of ultra-dangerous stormtroopers, Scar Squadron, to destroy the rebels. Even though Luke, Leia, and Han escape victorious, the stormtroopers, humiliated in their defeat, vow retribution. In order to force another battle, Scar Squadron turns its focus on its new prisoner: C-3PO....

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THE *DEVASTATOR.*

"AND THEN THERE WAS THE TIME I HELPED DESTROY THE DEATH STAR."

NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE TIME I ASSISTED IN THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF THE IMPERIAL WEAPONS FACTORY ON CYMOON 1.

OR JUST THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I WAS QUITE PIVOTAL IN THE THEFT OF A STAR DESTROYER.

THIS IS OFFICIALLY THE ***WORST*** INTERROGATION I'VE EVER BEEN A PART OF.

I MEAN, MIC NEVER EVEN GOT TO USE HIS ***TORTURE BOTS.***

LITERALLY ALL WE DID WAS ASK IT ONE QUESTION. AND NOW...

...NOW WE CAN'T GET THE STUPID THING TO ***SHUT UP.***

HE'S TOLD US EVERYTHING HE KNOWS, LORD VADER. WHICH ISN'T MUCH THAT SEEMS PARTICULARLY USEFUL.
HE CAN'T LEAD US TO THE REBEL FLEET. AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THEY MIGHT BE LOOKING TO ESTABLISH A NEW BASE.
AS I SAID, NAVIGATION ISN'T EXACTLY MY STRONG POINT. WHY, I ONCE GOT LOST ABOARD AN ALDERAANIAN CRUISER NO LARGER THAN A--
WE CAN TAKE HIM APART AND SCOUR HIS MEMORY BANKS JUST TO BE SURE.
BEG YOUR PARDON, DID YOU SAY--
BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S LOOKING LIKE A BIT OF A DEAD--
GET RID OF IT.
IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN USELESS JUNK.

BUT LORD VADER...
AND I AM STARTING TO SUSPECT THE SAME OF YOU AND YOUR SCAR SQUADRON, SERGEANT KREEL.
WHICH DOESN'T BODE WELL FOR YOUR FUTURE.
WELL THAT'S THAT, I GUESS.
I CALL DIBS ON SHOOTING IT.
NO.
THIS THING HAS CLEARLY BEEN ON AN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF MISSIONS FOR A PROTOCOL DROID. ALONGSIDE THE CRAZIEST BUNCH OF REBELS WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.
REBELS SO CRAZY, THEY MIGHT'VE ACTUALLY COME TO SEE THIS PIECE OF JUNK AS SOME KIND OF FRIEND.
I MEAN, THEY STOLE A STAR DESTROYER, RIGHT? MAYBE THEY'RE EVEN CRAZY ENOUGH TO TRY AND STEAL HIM.
BUT VADER SAID...
I KNOW. AND WE WILL. RIGHT AFTER WE LET HIM SEND A LITTLE MESSAGE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY THERE, GOLDENFACE? FEEL LIKE GETTING RESCUED?
OH, THE REBELLION WILL DEFINITELY BE ON ITS WAY TO RESCUE ME.
I AM A QUITE IMPORTANT FIGURE WITHIN THE REBEL ALLIANCE. QUITE IMPORTANT INDEED.
MY FRIENDS WILL SIMPLY NOT REST UNTIL I'M SAFE.

THE REBEL FLEET.

"NO."

NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

OF COURSE NOT.

I HATE TO SAY IT BUT...

WWWWWRRRRRHH

YOU WANNA GO AFTER HIM? YOU HEARD THE SAME MESSAGE I DID.

THREEPIO IS A PRISONER ON A STAR DESTROYER WITH *DARTH VADER*. YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO...

RRRRHHHHH

YEAH, I KNOW WE JUST STOLE A STAR DESTROYER. WHICH IS WHY WE SHOULDN'T PUSH OUR LUCK.

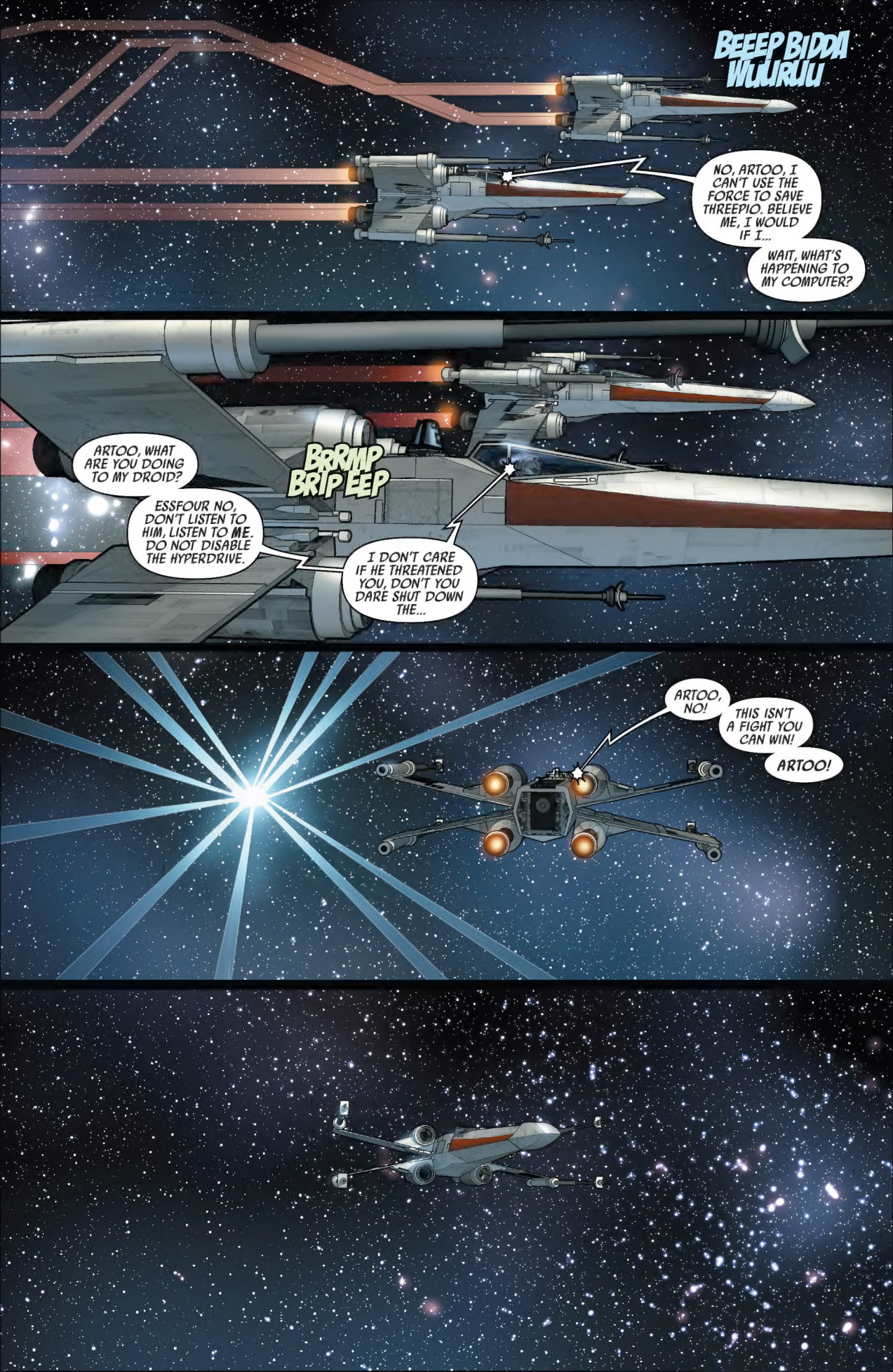
AND HEY, LOOK, I'LL BE THE ONE TO COME OUT AND SAY IT, OKAY? HE'S A *DROID*.

I MEAN, NOTHING AGAINST THE GUY, BUT... C'MON, WE'RE NOT EXACTLY SHORT ON DROIDS AROUND HERE, RIGHT?

WE CAN'T TAKE ON VADER'S ENTIRE FLEET OVER ONE DROID, NO MATTER THE...

SHORT ON DROIDS. WAIT...

"WHERE'S ARTOO?"
ARTOO, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
BWOOP WOOBEEP WOOWOO
YOU'RE GONNA RESCUE THREEPIO ALONE? ARTOO, THAT'S INSANE.
LISTEN, I'M SORRY, I KNOW HE'S YOUR FRIEND.
TWEEP WIP BRIP
YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S *OUR* FRIEND. BUT WE CAN'T GO RUNNING OFF LIKE THIS.


BEEEP BIDDA WUURUU
NO, ARTOO, I CAN'T USE THE FORCE TO SAVE THREEPIO. BELIEVE ME, I WOULD IF I...
WAIT, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY COMPUTER?
ARTOO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY DROID?
BRRMP BRIP EEP
ESSFOUR NO, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, LISTEN TO ME. DO NOT DISABLE THE HYPERDRIVE.
I DON'T CARE IF HE THREATENED YOU, DON'T YOU DARE SHUT DOWN THE...
ARTOO, NO!
THIS ISN'T A FIGHT YOU CAN WIN!
ARTOO!

RED FIVE TO BASE. I LOST HIM.
WUDDA WOOBOO
SHUT UP, ESSFOR.
JUST GET TO WORK ON REENABLING THE HYPERDRIVE.
I'M SORRY, ARTOO.
YOU WERE RIGHT. IF I WERE A JEDI, I COULD...
OH, YEAH...
JOURNAL OF BEN KENOBI.
IT WAS A TIME BEFORE THE CLONE WARS, DURING THE TWILIGHT OF THE OLD REPUBLIC, WHEN THERE WAS A YOUNG ONE IN NEED...

AND A JEDI ANSWERED THE CALL.
"A SHIP JUST LANDED OUTSIDE."
IS IT A JEDI? A REAL JEDI?
I DON'T KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE, BUT HE'S...DEFINITELY NOT WHAT I EXPECTED.
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'D BETTER HAVE OUR MONEY...
...IF HE WANTS THE KID.
PLEASE...
...I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
THE WHOLE CITY'S HEARD ABOUT YOU, KID. THE BOY FROM THE SLUMS WHO CAN MOVE THINGS JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.
YOU'RE A FORCE-USER. AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO FORCE-USERS, DON'T WE?

THE JEDI COME AND TAKE THEM AWAY, MAKE THEM INTO MIGHTY WARRIORS WITH FANCY SWORDS.
BUT NO ONE TAKES ANYTHING OFF THIS PLANET WITHOUT FIRST PAYING THE FLESH MONGERS FOR THE PRIVILEGE.
HOW MUCH DO YOU FIGURE YOU'RE WORTH, LITTLE FORCE BOY?
MASTER...
...HE'S HERE.
THE JEDI WALKED ALONE INTO THE LAIR OF THE PIRATE HORDE.
THE HALL WAS FILLED WITH REAVERS AND RAIDERS. ALL OF THEM HEAVILY ARMED. ALL VETERANS OF COUNTLESS SAVAGE RAIDS. ALL VIOLENTLY DEVOTED TO THEIR LORD.
BUT THE JEDI SHOWED NO FEAR.
WOW. THIS MUST'VE BEEN THE BIGGEST, SCARIEST JEDI WHO EVER LIVED.
THIS... THIS IS A JEDI?
RIGHT AWAY, THE PIRATES SHOWED THEIR IGNORANCE.
AND IN THAT MOMENT...
HA HA HA HA HAA HA

...SEALED THEIR FATE.
FIND THIS HUMOROUS, I DO NOT.
COME FOR THE BOY, I HAVE.

HEH. AND WHAT ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE, LITTLE FELLA?

THE BOY'S ESCORT TO CORUSCANT, WHERE HIS TRAINING, HE WILL BEGIN.

THE BOY'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I SAY SO.

WHERE'S MY *MONEY?*

THE JEDI CARE NOT FOR WEALTH.

THE *FORCE* IS OUR ONLY COMPANION.

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND THE FORCE JUST WALKED INTO A WHOLE MESS OF TROUBLE.

GUARDS. TEAR HIS HEAD OFF AND SEND IT BACK TO CORUSCANT. MAYBE THE NEXT JEDI THEY SEND WILL BRING US MORE THAN WORDS.

SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN WEALTH HAVE I BROUGHT YOU.

YEAH, AND WHAT'S THAT, LITTLE GUY?

WISDOM.

WHAT?
CAN'T... MOVE.
HOW...
A WISE JEDI ONCE SAID--
MY ARM... WHAT'S...
I CAN'T STOP IT FROM...
GAAGH!
OW, STOP IT!
YOU STOP IT!
I CAN'T!
--ONLY MORE VIOLENCE DOES VIOLENCE BEGET.
NOT HERE TO FIGHT AM I. TAKE MY WORDS IN TRADE FOR THE BOY. THIS I BEG YOU.
YOU CALL THAT BEGGING? I'M GONNA MAKE YOU LEARN PROPER BEGGING BEFORE YOU DIE.
ALL PIRATES ATTACK! KILL THE LITTLE--

CHILD.
TIME TO GO.
BEGUN YOUR TRAINING HAS.

HIS NAME IS LO. PLEASE ESCORT HIM TO CORUSCANT.
WORRY NOT, LO. SAFE YOU WILL BE, WITH QUI-GON JINN.
OF COURSE, MASTER YODA. HAPPY TO HELP. WE WERE ALREADY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, AFTER ALL.
I BELIEVE MY PADAWAN IS JUST SORRY WE MISSED ALL THE FUN.
HOLY... BLASTER BOLTS.
HOW DID HE TAKE OUT A WHOLE ROOM FULL OF PIRATES?
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, MASTER?
ON THE WAY HERE, A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE I FELT.
A CALLING. FOLLOW IT I MUST.
INTERESTING. I CONFESS I CANNOT FEEL IT.
SHOULD WE COME WITH YOU?
A CALLING FOR ME IT WAS. WITH LUCK...

"...PROVE ADEQUATE I WILL."
SO THE JEDI MASTER FOLLOWED THE MYSTERIOUS FORCE CALL, WHICH WAS UNLIKE ANY CALLING HE HAD EVER FELT.
IT LED HIM TO A PLANET THAT DIDN'T APPEAR ON ANY OF HIS STAR MAPS.
A PLANET SURROUNDED BY AN ASTEROID BELT SO DENSE AND DANGEROUS THAT ONLY A FOOL OR AN AMAZING PILOT WOULD EVER DARE ENTER.
THIS JEDI MASTER WAS NO FOOL.

IT WAS A DARK AND DREARY WORLD. SEEMINGLY LIFELESS.
YET THERE WAS THE HINT OF SOMETHING THERE, JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE.
HIDING.
SOMETHING ANCIENT AND POWERFUL.
GREETINGS.
COME IN PEACE, I HAVE, TO THIS HIDDEN WORLD OF...

SOMETHING UNEXPECTED.
...OF... CHILDREN.

STAR WARS™
NEXT ISSUE:

Tour
THE SEVEN SEAS
With
BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE
Call 555-FISH